Bonded labourers

*320. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bonded labourers rescued in the country during 2006 and 2007, so far. State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the Central assistance given for the rehabilitation of the rescued bonded labourers during 2006-07 and during 2007-08, so far, State-wise and year-wise and number of them who have been rehabilitated during the period; and

(c) whether it is a fact that some bonded labourers rescued in Haryana sometime back again went missing; if so, whether they could be found out and the action taken against those who were responsible for their disappearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Statement showing the number of bonded labourers released and rehabilitated and Central assistance released to the State Governments during the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto 31.07.2007).

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	State	Amount released as Central Assistance	No. of Bonded Labourers Rehabilitated	Remarks
200607	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 10.40	104	Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour
	West Bengal	Rs. 3.01	93	- do -
2007-08 (upto 31.7.07)	West Bengal	Rs. 8.80	88	-do-

(c) According to the reports received from the State Government of Haryana, no such case has occurred in Haryana during the last five years.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Tea factories lying closed

2294. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of tea factories are lying closed in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to make these tea factories functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) As on 1.4.2007, 33 tea gardens were reported to be closed, of these 30 tea gardens have tea factories which were also closed. The depressed price situation since mid 1999 coupled with other factors like high cost of production, low prices of tea, ownership disputes etc., have affected the viability of tea gardens resulting in the closure of these gardens and their factories.

(d) The Government has recently announced a rehabilitation package for closed tea gardens. Persistent efforts of both Central and State Governments have resulted in opening of ten closed tea gardens recently. However, for opening of tea factories, adequate green leaf inflow is required. After prolonged closure the plantations require some time and care to come to full production. The factories would also require repairing and overhauling. Once the closed tea gardens open and their normal activities are resumed, the factories would start working soon after.

Sanction of land to the multinational companies

2295. DR. VUAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of land sanctioned by Government to the multinational companies in the outskirts of Bangalore;

(b) the extent of land acquired by Government for development of Information Technology and Bio-Technology;

(c) the extent of land sanctioned to the various companies (company-wise details be furnished); and

(d) whether compensation has been paid to the farmers who have lost their land after land acquisition (details be furnished)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ban on import of Indian traditional medicines

2296. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some countries like Australia, US and UK have banned Indian traditional medicines due to higher toxic metal content;

(b) if so. Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have made any regulatory monitoring system to test the metallic content mandatory for traditional drugs meant for exports;

(d) whether those medicines which are banned by these countries are presently in domestic use; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?